

2022 Summary

BRISTOL BAY SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT AREA



Naknek River

Based on inseason information from anglers and guides, the inriver king salmon abundance appeared to be low with the run appearing to be slightly late and fishing generally being below average. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

- On July 21, 2022, the daily bag and possession limit for king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, was reduced to one fish and the annual limit was reduced to two fish in all fresh and salt waters of Bristol Bay that were open to retention of king salmon.

Alagnak River

Inseason reports from anglers and guides indicated a low inriver abundance of king salmon with the run appearing to be slightly early and fishing generally being below average. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

- On July 21, 2022, the daily bag and possession limit for king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, was reduced to one fish and the annual limit was reduced to two fish in all fresh and salt waters of Bristol Bay that were open to retention of king salmon.

Nushagak-Mulchatna River

The preliminary estimate of king salmon passing the Portage Creek sonar was 44,434 salmon. King salmon are managed to achieve an inriver return of 95,000 fish, to provide for a sustainable escapement goal (SEG) of 55,000 - 120,000 spawning salmon.

Commercial, sport, and subsistence catch information indicated average run timing with a return that was well below the historical average. Approximately 5,325 king salmon were harvested during the sockeye salmon commercial fishery. Harvest estimates for the sport and subsistence fisheries are not currently available. Reports from anglers, guides, and subsistence users suggest a below average harvest in the sport fishery and subsistence fisheries. Effort appeared to be near average.



Management Actions

- On July 7, 2022, the bag and possession limits for king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, were reduced to one fish with an annual limit of two in the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage.
- On July 13, 2022, retention of king salmon of any size and the use of bait were prohibited in the Nushagak-Mulchatna River drainage.

Togiak River

Based on inseason reports from anglers, guides, and subsistence users, inriver king salmon abundance was low with the run appearing to be near average timing. Fishing success was generally below average for the duration of the run from late June through late July. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

- On July 21, 2022, the daily bag and possession limit for king salmon, 20 inches or greater in length, was reduced to one fish and the annual limit was reduced to two fish in all fresh and salt waters of Bristol Bay that were open to retention of king salmon.



Naknek River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the Sustainable Escapement Goal (SEG) range of 800,000 - 2.0 million fish for the Naknek River with an estimate of 1.9 million salmon.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2022 sport fishery season.

Kvichak River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the SEG range of 2.0 - 10.0 million fish for the Kvichak River with an estimate of 4.2 million salmon.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2022 sport fishery season.

Alagnak River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the lower bound SEG of 210,000 fish with an estimate of 1.7 million salmon.

Management Actions

- On July 9, 2022, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon were increased to ten fish in all waters of the Alagnak River drainage.



Nushagak-Mulchatna River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 370,000 - 900,000 fish with an estimate of 3.5 million salmon.

Management Actions

- On June 29, 2022, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon were increased to ten fish in all waters of the Nushagak-Mulchatna drainage.

Wood River

The sockeye salmon escapement exceeded the SEG range of 700,000 - 1.8 million fish with an estimate of 3.7 million salmon.

Management Actions

- On July 1, 2022, the bag and possession limits for sockeye salmon were increased to ten fish in all waters of the Wood River drainage.

Togiak River

The sockeye salmon escapement was within the SEG range of 120,000 - 270,000 fish with an estimate of 242,412 salmon.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2022 sport fishery season.



Naknek River

Based on reports from anglers and guides, inriver abundance of coho salmon was average for the duration of the run from late July through early September. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2022 sport fishery season.

Nushagak-Mulchatna River

Sport and subsistence catch information indicated an average return during 2022. Approximately 1,789 coho salmon were harvested in the commercial fishery. Harvest estimates for the sport and subsistence fisheries are not available; however, angler, guide, and subsistence user reports suggest an average harvest in the sport and subsistence fisheries. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2022 sport fishery season.



Togiak River

Based on reports from anglers and guides, inriver abundance was good for the duration of the run from early August through early September. Effort appeared to be near average.

Management Actions

- No management actions were implemented during the 2022 sport fishery season.



Table 1 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for king salmon, 2013 to 2022 (preliminary).

	2022 Goal Range			Initial									Preliminary	
Svstem	Lower	Upper	Type	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
KING SALMON														
Bristol Bay														
Nushagak River	55,000	120,000	SEG	2013	107,602	70,482	98,019	125,368	56,961	97,239	47,882	43,032	55,222	44,434
Alagnak River	2,700		LB SEG	2007	NC	NC	917	1,283	435	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula														
Karluk River	3,000	6,000	BEG	2011	1,824	1,182	2,777	3,434	2,600	3,155	3,898	3,344	2,796	2,629
Ayakulik River	4,800	8,400	BEG	2017	2,304	789	2,392	4,594	3,712	2,149	1,948	2,402	2,961	2,845
Chignik River	1,300	2,700	BEG	2002	1,185	2,895	2,041	1,843	1,137	825	1,517	1,278	1,072	661
Nelson River	2,400	5,000	BEG	2019	1,421	3,801	2,440	4,618	1,502	5,022	11,653	2,298	4,539	3,785
Upper Cook Inlet														
Alexander Creek	1,900	3,700	SEG	2020	588	911	1,117	754	170	296	1,297	596	288	NC
Campbell Creek	380		LB SEG	2011	NS	274	654	544	475	287	393	154	339	423
Chuitna River	1,000	1,500	SEG	2002	1,690	1,398	1,965	1,372	235	939	2,115	869	806	NC
Chulitna River	1,200	2,900	SEG	2020	1,262	1,011	3,137	1,151	NC	1125	2,765	845	1,535	NC
Clear (Chunilna) Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	1,471	1,390	1,205	NS	780	940	1,511			
Crooked Creek	700	1,400	SEG	2002	1,103	1,411	1,456	1,747	911	714	1,444	830	594	735
Deshka River	eliminated (see Deshka Stock)			2020	18,531	16,335	24,316	22,874	11,383	8,544	9,711			
Deshka Stock	9,000	18,000	BEG	2020								10,638	18,674	5,437
Eastside Susitna Stock	13,000	25,000	SEG	2020								14,995	15,208	Pending
Goose Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	62	232	NC	NC	148	90	NC			
Kenai River - Early Run (all fish)	eliminated ^a			2017	2,148	5,311	6,190	9,177						
Kenai River - Early Run (large fish)	2,800	5,600	SEG	2017										
	3,900	6,600	OEG	2017					6,726	2,910	4,128	2,439	4,045	2,047
Kenai River - Late Run (all fish)	eliminated ^a			2017	19,342	17,451	22,642	18,790						
Kenai River - Late Run (large fish)	13,500	27,000	SEG	2017					20,615	17,289	11,638			
	15,000	30,000	OEG	2020								11,909	12,176	13,952
Lake Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	3,655	3,506	4,686	3,588	1,601	1,767	2,692			
Lewis River	eliminated			2020	61	61	5 ^b	0	0 ^b	0	0 ^b			
Little Susitna River (Aerial) ^c	700	1,500	SEG	2020	1,651	1,759	1,507	1,622	1,192	530	NC	NC	889	NC
Little Susitna River (weir)	2,100	4,300	SEG	2017					2,531	549 ^c	3,666	2,445 ^d	3,121	2,288
Little Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	858	684	788	675	840	280	631			
Montana Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	1,304	953	1,416	692	603	473	789			
Peters Creek	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	1,643	1,443	1,514	1,122	307	1674	1,209			
Prairie Creek	eliminated (see Talkeetna Stock)			2020	3,304	2,812	3,290	1,853	1,930	1194	2,371			
Sheep Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	NC	262	NC	NC	NC	334	NC			
Talachulitna River	eliminated (see Yetna Stock)			2020	2,285	2,256	2,582	4,295	1,087	1483	3,225			
Talkeetna Stock	9,000	17,500	SEG	2020								7,283	9,107	Pending
Theodore River	500	1,000	SEG	2020	476	312	426	68	21	18	201	111	38	NC
Willow Creek	eliminated (see Eastside Susitna Stock)			2020	1,752	1,335	2,046	1,814	1,329	411	897			
Yentna Stock	16,000	22,000	OEG	2020								14,709	18,890	Pending
Lower Cook Inlet														
Anchor River	3,800	7,600	SEG	2017	4,388	2,497	10,241	7,146	5,796	3,162	5,691	3,558	4,300	3,147
Deep Creek	350		LB SEG	2017	475	601	535	NS	753	182	751	327	NC	NC
Nimilchik River	750	1,300	SEG	2017	571	891	874	572	855	979	1,185	833	772	687
Note : NA = data not available; NC = no count; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.														
^a Kenai River Chinook salmon all fish SEG's were eliminated and large fish goals were instituted														
^b Lewis River mouth naturally obstructed.														
^c Little Susitna River Chinook salmon aerial survey goal is only used to assess escapement if weir count is not available.														

Table 2 – Select Southcentral Region Salmon Escapement Goals and Escapements for sockeye and coho salmon, 2013 to 2022 (preliminary).

	2022 Goal Range			Initial										Preliminary	
System	Lower	Upper	Type	Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
COHO SALMON															
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula															
Buskin River	4,700	9,600	BEG	2014	4,401	7,345	3,363	2,513	5,559	1,066	5,537	630 ^d	7,919	2,526	
Olds River	500		LB SEG	2019	2,145	1,320	1,357	1,634	10,54	1,000	NS	794	923	NA	
American River	400		LB SEG	2011	841	1,595	530	500	410	300	NS	279	297	NA	
Pasagshak River	1,200		LB SEG	2011	1,648	4,934	1,790	667	701	1,200	488	2,031	4,721	NA	
Upper Cook Inlet															
Fish Creek (Knik)	1,200	6,000	SEG	2020	7,593 ^d	10,283	7,912	2,484	8,966	5,022	3,025	4,555 ^d	0 ^{dk}	0 ^d	
Jim Creek	250	700	SEG	2020	663	122	571	106	5,646	758	162	735	1,499	1,899	
Little Susitna River	9,200	17,700	SEG	2020	13,583	24,211	12,756	10,049	17,781	7,583	4,229	9,931 ^c	10,123 ^{dc}	3,162 ^d	
Deshka River	10,200	24,100	SEG	2017					36,869	12,962	10,445	5,368 ^d	3,431 ^d	3,137 ^d	
SOCKEYE SALMON															
Bristol Bay															
Kvichak River ^f	2,000,000	10,000,000	SEG	2010	2,088,576	4,458,540	7,341,612	4,462,728	3,163,404	4,398,708	2,371,242	4,030,968	4,703,520	4,224,882	
Alagnak River (Tower) ^g	210,000		LB SEG	2018	1,095,950	200,524	5,770,650	NA	2,041,825	1,581,426	820,458	2,386,518	3,236,904	1,668,222	
Alagnak River (Aerial) ^h	125,000		LB SEG	2016				696,400	629,200						
Naknek River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG ⁱ	2015	938,160	1,474,428	1,920,954	1,691,910	1,899,972	2,221,152	2,911,470	4,112,160	2,796,534	1,921,296	
Egegik River	800,000	2,000,000	SEG	2015	1,113,630	1,382,466	2,160,792	1,837,260	2,600,982	1,608,354	2,340,210	2,389,728	1,832,196	1,786,152	
Ugashik River	500,000	1,400,000	SEG	2015	898,110	640,158	1,564,638	1,635,270	1,186,446	1,167,792	1,547,748	1,745,940	2,859,930	1,436,784	
Wood River	700,000	1,800,000	SEG	2015	1,183,348	2,764,614	1,941,474	1,309,707	4,274,224	7,507,254	2,073,276	2,243,886	4,410,156	3,747,612	
Igushik River	150,000	400,000	SEG	2015	387,036	340,590	651,172	469,230	578,700	1,581,426	256,074	323,814	878,952	378,768	
Nushagak River	370,000	900,000	SEG	2015	894,172	618,477	796,684	680,513	2,852,308	1,164,701	709,349	1,228,059	4,697,299	3,455,272	
Kodiak/Alaska Peninsula															
Buskin River	5,000	8,000	SEG	2011	16,189	13,976	8,719	11,584	7,214	4,281	12,297	7,739	2,230	8,117	
Afognak River	20,000	50,000	BEG	2005	42,153	36,345	38,151	33,167	22,151	17,601	26,817	24,284	31,997	29,509	
Saltery River	15,000	35,000	BEG	2011	35,939	29,047	42,468	57,867	39,315	22,845	22,183	24,987	64,602	25,615	
Pasagshak River	3,000		LB SEG	2011	9,750	1,582	2,077	7,053	11,021	2,019	4,537	3,522	8,551	4,377	
Karluk River Early Run	150,000	250,000	BEG	2014	234,880	252,097	260,097	164,760	242,599	205,054	186,510	157,441	128,373	175,336	
Ayakulik River Early Run	140,000	280,000	SEG	2011	214,969	210,040	218,178	182,589	204,497	266,333	279,639	220,935	265,756	251,690	
Fraser River	75,000	170,000	BEG	2008	136,059	200,296	219,093	122,585	129,227	201,161	169,627	137,570	186,632	118,509	
Upper Cook Inlet															
Fish Creek (Knik)	15,000	45,000	SEG	2017	18,912	43,915	102,309	46,202	61,469	71,556	76,031	64,234	70,000 ^k	58,333 ^a	
Kasilof River	140,000	370,000	OEG	2020	490	439,977	470,679	239,981	358,724	394,309	378,416	545,654	521,859	971,604	
	140,000	320,000	BEG	2020											
Kenai River ^l	OEG eliminated			2017	980,208	1,218,342	1,400,047	1,119,988							
	750,000	1,300,000	SEG	2017					1,071,064	886,761	1,457,031	1,505,940	2,148,955	1,263,170	
	varies based on tier		Inriver						1,308,498	1,035,761	1,849,054	1,714,565	2,441,825	1,567,750	
Russian River - Early Run	22,000	42,000	BEG	2011	35,776	44,920	50,226	38,739	37,123	44,110	125,942	27,103	46,976	61,098	
Russian River - Late Run	44,000	85,000	SEG	2020	31,573	52,277	46,223	37,837	45,012	71,052	64,585 ^d	78,832	123,950	124,561	
Chelatna Lake	20,000	45,000	SEG	2017	70,555	26,212	69,750	60,792	26,986	20,438	26,303 ^l	NC	NC	NC	
Judd Lake	15,000	40,000	SEG	2017	14,088	22,416	47,684	NA	35,731	30,844	44,145	31,220	49,250	38,442	
Larson Lake	15,000	35,000	SEG	2017	21,821	12,040	23,214	14,333	31,866	23,444	9,699	12,018	21,987	17,436	
Lower Cook Inlet															
English Bay	6,000	13,500	SEG	2002	10,891	7,832	6,290	7,673	20,751	18,083	24,044	31,486	6,328	11,425	
Delight Lake	5,100	10,600	SEG	2017	5,961	22,289	3,220	5,110	5,380	13,428	17,410	12,299	7,525	22,717	
Desire Lake	4,800	11,900	SEG	2017	8,400	11,480	2,830	6,740	9,450	9,840	9,040	2,260	3,323	20,460	
Bear Lake	700	8,300	SEG	2002	8,999	9,090	9,560	9,011	9,207	10,568	9,185	8,212	11,318	9,962	

Note : NA = data not available; NC = no count; LB SEG = lower-bound SEG.

^d Incomplete count because weir was pulled before end of run due to flood/fire evacuation, etc

^c Preliminary escapement estimate uses weir count minus five year average harvest above the weir.

^f Prior to 2010 Kvichak River had a pre-peak/peak-cycle escapement goal of 6-10 million sockeye and an off-peak escapement goal of 2-10 million fish.

^g 2009 to 2015 Alagnak River sockeye salmon escapements for Alagnak River (Tower) escapement goal are expanded aerial surveys.

^h Alagnak River sockeye salmon aerial survey-based escapement goal will be used in years that the Alagnak River tower is not operated.

ⁱ Naknek River has an OEG of 800,000-2,000,000 sockeye salmon when the Naknek River Special Harvest Area is open to fishing.

^j Kenai River sockeye salmon uses the best estimate of sport harvest upstream of sonar.

^k Incomplete count, video review still in progress

^l Weir not operational